

IMPACT REPORT

2017-2018



unveiling the creative side of sustainability

| www.ruckusroots.org |

Los Angeles, CA

a note from our founder:

Looking Ahead to 2018: A Year of Higher Impact

What started as a passion project in 2010 has grown into an innovative organization with something real and different to offer Los Angeles in 2017. Over the last few years we have utilized forward-thinking program development to find our footing, honing our identity within the shifting landscape of arts education. It is during this period that our roots deepened and grew strong.

Strong Roots, Greater Growth

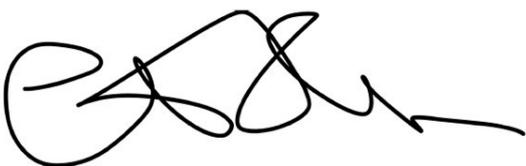
Those strong roots are what will help us navigate the changes ahead and rise to the challenges that come with building a creative, sustainable Los Angeles. In the coming years, we will strive to shine an even brighter light on the issues impacting our community today, giving underserved populations a voice to speak out about those issues through their own creative artwork. From homelessness to pollution and traffic, we create art that explores Angelenos' daily challenges and works towards improving them.

In this report, you'll see all the ways in which our strong foundation is positioning us for our most impactful year in 2018. With new key partnerships, more programs offered, a more stable funding base and better access to students who need our programs, we can't wait to get started.

You'll also find the results of our first-ever impact study, which illustrate how we stand apart from other arts organizations in LA: evidence that our programs go beyond art to transform students into effective change-makers and engaged citizens.

Here's to a year of higher impact!

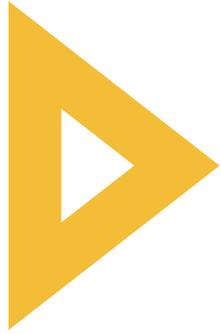
Thank you for your support,



Christine Spehar
Founder, RuckusRoots



our mission:



We believe that the arts can inspire individual and collective action to address complex social and environmental issues.



Our mission is to create stronger, more sustainable communities by fostering connection, creativity and engagement.

our programs:

Our programs are designed to awaken participants to the reality that art, the environment and society are things we can take part in, affect and even change.



Over **3000** students served since 2011



Ages: 10 to 18



School Programs:

- Trashformation
- Wild Art
- Chimes for Change



Community Impact Programs:

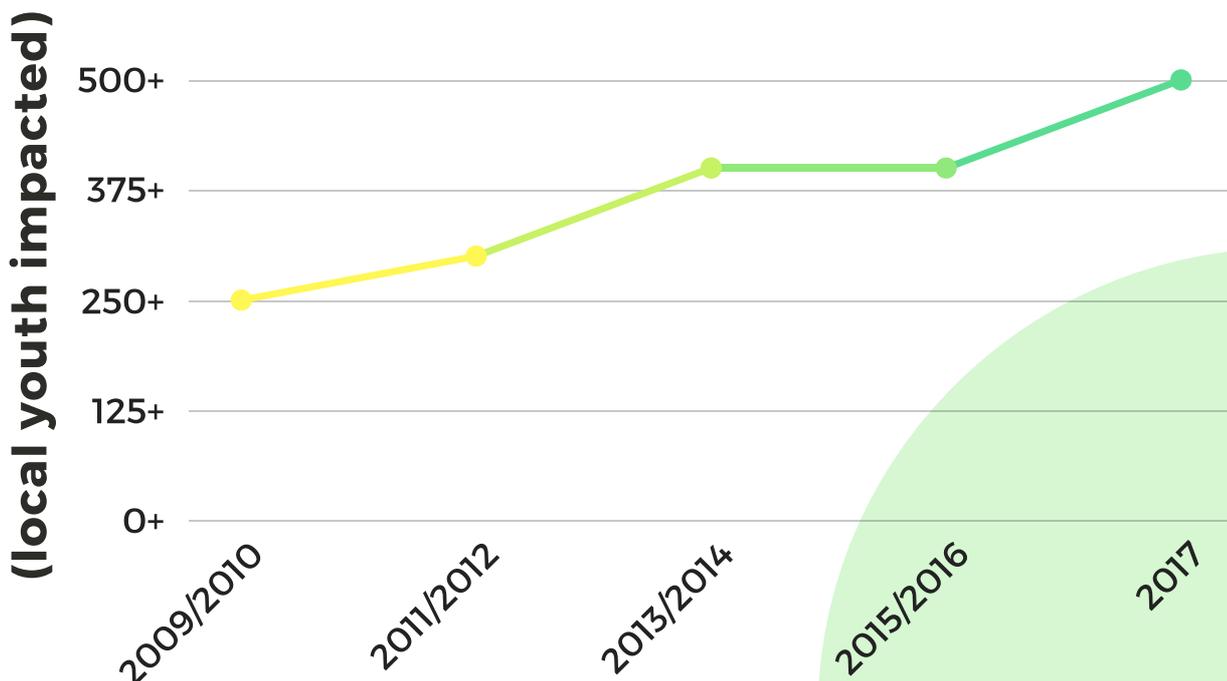
- Community Listening Project
- "Strong Roots" Artist Residency & Student Internship



program growth:



We can proudly report that our work with local youth has grown steadily year by year, and our impact has deepened with each program!



program growth:

In 2017/2018, we are expanding beyond Northeast Los Angeles to include Koreatown[★] (Central L.A.) and Compton[★] (South Los Angeles).



our impact:

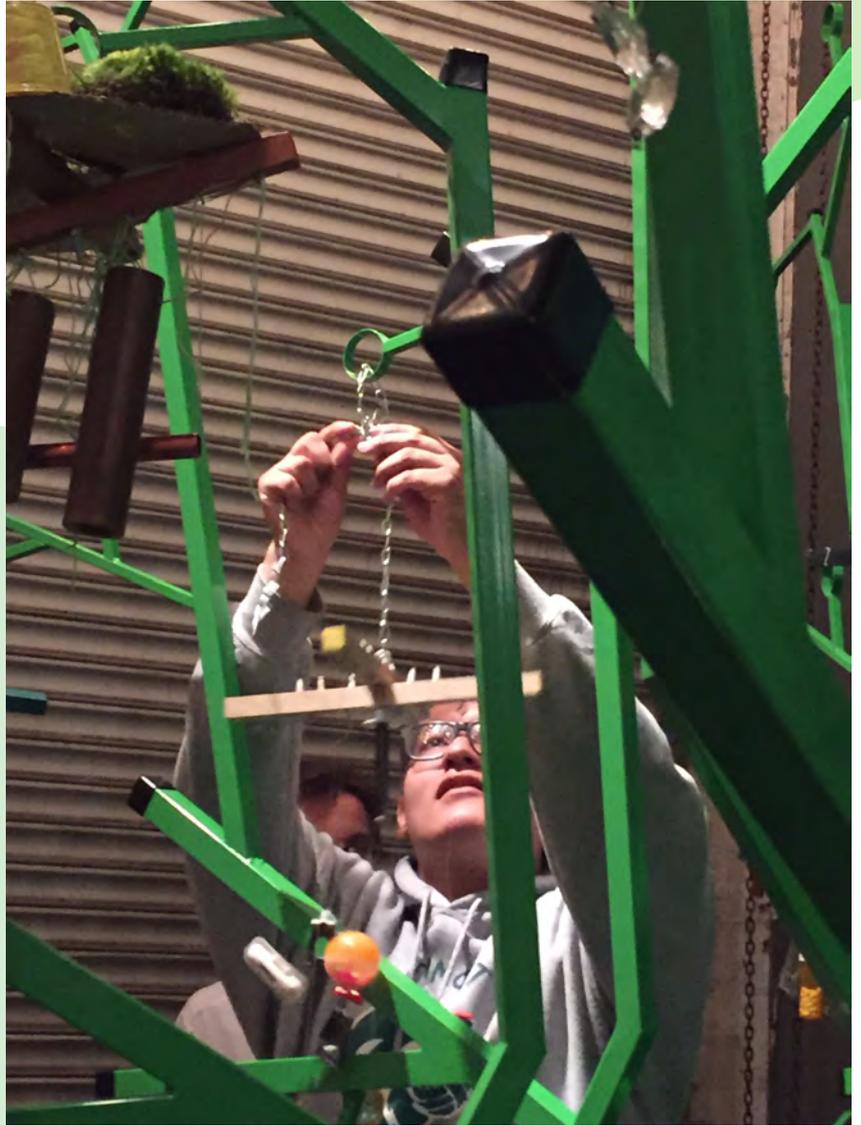


We work hard to design programming that encourages creativity, heightens awareness of both local and global issues, and maximizes student agency in affecting positive change.

OVER 75%

of our program participants go on to become **effective changemakers** in their local communities after working with RuckusRoots!*

*CRITERIA: 1. pursuit of higher education or employment 2. continued involvement in sustainability work or community enrichment 3. demonstrate use of creative thinking and problem solving after graduation



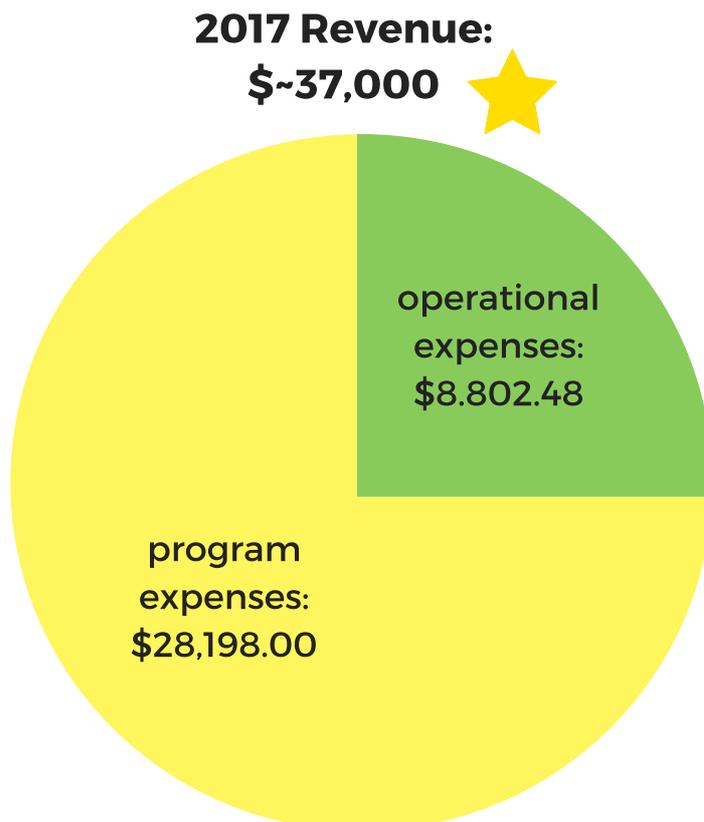
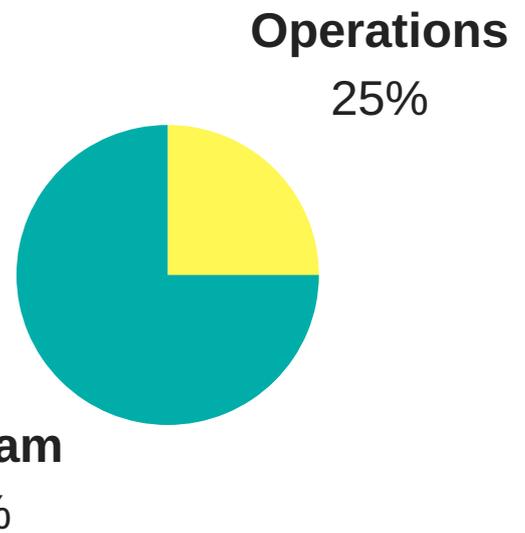
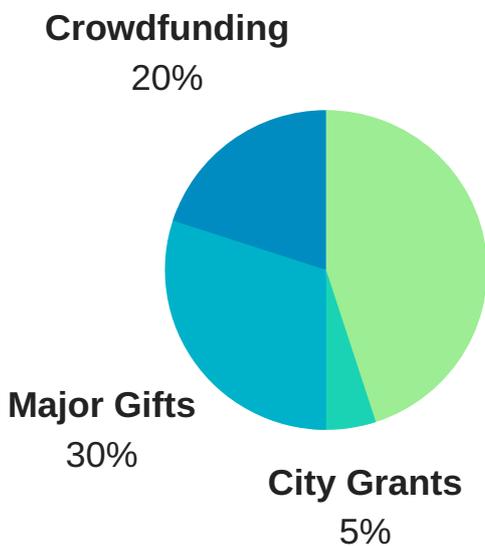
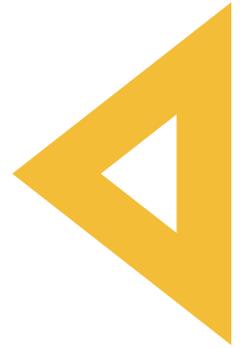
students demonstrate
more than an **80% increase**



in understanding of **environmental + sustainability** concepts after program participation

financials:

Since RuckusRoots' inception, Los Angeles' arts funding has been on a roller-coaster ride (75% cuts from 2007 to 2012, an \$8.3 million allocation to the California Arts Council in 2015 and a 2017 call to eliminate all funding to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in fiscal year 2018). Despite the ups and downs, we remain steadfast in our dedication to providing our community with meaningful arts education. Here's a look at how we do that:



what our participants say:



"People should be proud of the areas they live in. When an area has a litter problem, its residents don't want to spend time there, meaning an area becomes uncared for, community spirit suffers, and as a result people's wellbeing and health suffer."
- Angela, 11th Grade



"Before RuckusRoots, I wanted to open a bar. Now I want to open a community center."
-Milagros Vizcaino
RuckusRoots Intern



"Without light pollution, we would be able to see so many more stars, which would make the world more beautiful."
- Erin, 12th Grade

key partners:

We are proud to work in collaboration with the following schools and community organizations in the Los Angeles area.



Academia Avance



Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens



SKIES App

LARCHMONT
CHARTER SCHOOL

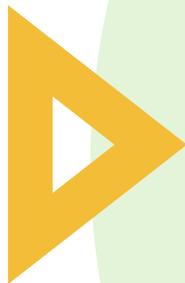
girls
inc.

of Greater Los Angeles

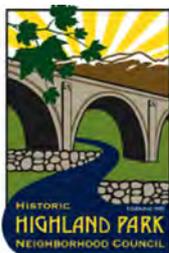


LEGACY LA

sponsors:



We are pleased to partner with the following sponsors, who enable us to continue bringing RuckusRoots programming to local schools and communities!



TORTOISE INDUSTRIES



The Go Game

THE BROTMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION



MUCARO
Crowdfunder!

Please support our fund with to get us on the floor!



LUSH CHARITY POT GRANT

Looking Ahead: 2018

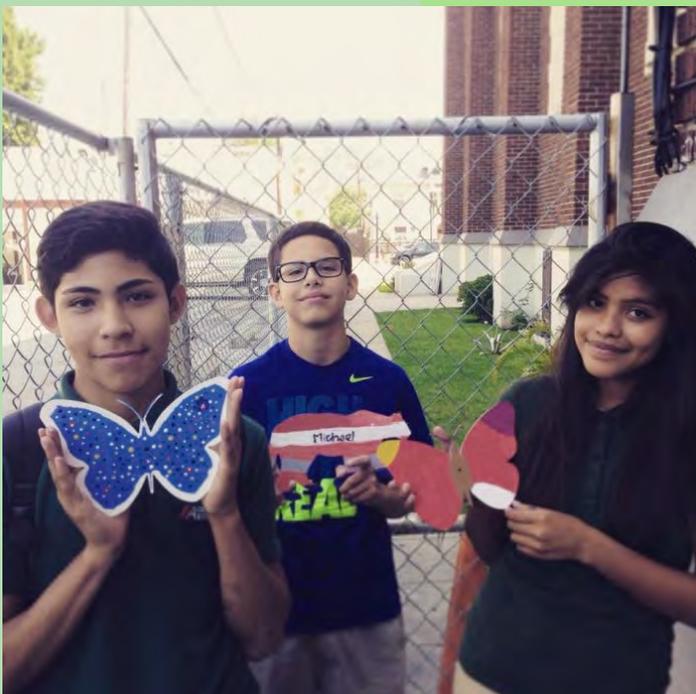


With new key partnerships and programs, a more stable funding base and and increased focus on high-need areas, we can't wait to get started!

New Programs

Community Listening Project
(funded by Lush Charity Pot Grant): Winter/Spring 2018

Artist in Residence/ Youth Mentorship Program (in partnership with Theodore Payne Foundation (Summer/Fall 2018!))



New Partners

- Theodore Payne Foundation
- Girls Inc
- Lifeline Charter School
- Los Angeles County High School for the Arts
- CLAW
- The Go Game